

# I Will Never Fly Again

for (amplified) voice, Bb clarinet and Bb bass clarinet (with optional guitar)

Music and lyrics by Alejandro Ruty

Duration: 6 minutes

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ARM R92

### **Program Notes**

The text of *I Will Never Fly Again*, is a combination of two separate ideas: the first gives voice to the annoyance at the inconveniences of modern air travel popular among people like us (composers, clarinetist, singers, our audiences). All the stories spoken here are true, and the performers are welcome to add theirs. Dave Carroll's song *United Breaks Guitars* is an example of this trope.

The second part of this piece is a reflection on the disconnect between our (perhaps legitimate) grievances and the experience of millions of people living in hopeless, dire situations: *If you think flying is bad, try subsistence farming in Niger*. Martín Caparrós describes the lives of the hungry in his book "*Hunger*" in vivid detail. Under this light, our troubles seem less cumbersome, but whether we abandon our consumer fight for a larger cause or not, *I Will Never Fly Again* seems to suggest that we are not as solidary as we think we are.

I will never fly again,  
I will never fly again,  
Maybe I could ride the bus, or the train  
but I will never, never, fly again

(Spoken)

"...They told me to move to another seat because I was too fat and they needed to balance the plane;  
I felt just like in middle school..."

"... You will have to check your guitar, there's no space in the aircraft  
for those in *basic economy*" "Please no, it will break!"

"...Is that a dog? Dogs give me panic attacks,  
get it off the plane!" "But we are already flying!"

I will never fly again,  
I will never fly again,  
Maybe I'll ride the bus, or the train  
but I will never, never, fly again

"Congratulations! You were randomly selected for secondary bag inspection!"  
"By the way, I can't put it back the way you packed your bag, sir, it's too tight"

"I was on crutches, hailing the carts, asking  
for a wheel-chair but they kept ignoring me..."

Passengers in trouble,  
The new battle in the great old class-struggle  
Who do you say will be first saved  
when your plane lands rough?

But, how can I explain  
this plight, this grand urge to fight,  
This cruel rhythm, the algorithm,  
To those left behind?

What am I to say  
to the millions who are hungry,  
every day and every night  
with no money, with no life or dreams?

"What am I to say  
to the exploited, the sick,  
Or those living on the street,  
the famished, dying children,  
their mothers, starving too?  
What am I to say?"

"How about those refugees,  
people taken by the flood, or soaked in blood,  
Old people, left alone,  
War victims, left to rot?"

What am I to say  
to those always abused,  
those with nothing to lose,  
those who already know that they will never be old?

"What am I to say?"

" The airline's baggage staff clearly have no idea where my bag  
is or has been for the last ten days, I had to buy a whole lot of new clothes. What kind of vacation is that?"

I will never fly again,

# I Will Never Fly Again

for (amplified) voice, Bb clarinet and Bb bass clarinet (with optional guitar)

Music and lyrics by Alejandro Rutty

*Intimate, as if remembering an old folk song*

Voice

I will ne - ver fly a - gain,

voice

May - be/I'll ride the bus, or the train, but I'll ne - ver fly a -

**A**  $\text{♩} = 48$  Spoken "...They told me to move to another seat because I was too fat and they needed to balance the plane; I felt just like in middle school..."

voice

gain.

Color change A

Color change B

B $\flat$  Cl.

Color change A

Color change B

B. Cl.

voice

"... You will have to check your guitar, there's no space in the aircraft for those in *basic economy*"  
 "Please no, it will break!"

simile

B $\flat$  Cl.

simile

B. Cl.

Insert your own story (optional)

12/8

12/8

12/8

**B** ♩ = 56

voice I'll ne-ver fly a - gain,

B♭ Cl. *p*

B. Cl. *p*

Opt. Gtr. Cm7 *p* Cm7

voice I'll ne-ver fly a - gain, May - be I could ride the bus or the train,

B♭ Cl.

B. Cl.

Opt. Gtr. Cm7 Bbm7

voice But I'll ne - ver fly a - gain.

B♭ Cl.

B. Cl.

Opt. Gtr. Abmaj7 Gm Fm7

voice solo

16 Cm7 Cm7

voice

B $\flat$  Cl.

B. Cl.

Opt. Gtr.

18 B $\flat$ m7 A $\flat$ maj7 Gm7

voice

B $\flat$  Cl.

B. Cl.

Opt. Gtr.

20 Fm7 humming *pp*

voice

B $\flat$  Cl.

B. Cl.

Opt. Gtr.

*pp* *pp* C7 B $\flat$ 7 *pp*

22 *p* **C** *pp*

voice

B $\flat$  Cl. *p* solo B $\flat$  *pp*

B. Cl. *p* *pp*

Opt. Gtr. *p* C7 B $\flat$ 7 *pp*

24

voice

B $\flat$  Cl. C $\flat$  B $\flat$  A $\flat$  E $\flat$

B. Cl.

Opt. Gtr.

27 *p*

voice "...Is that a dog? Dogs give me panic attacks, get it off the plane!"  
"But we are already flying!"

B $\flat$  Cl. B $\flat$  C $\flat$  C7 C $\flat$ 7

B. Cl. *p*

Opt. Gtr. *p*

30

voice

B♭ Cl.

B. Cl.

Opt. Gtr.

*Cm* *B♭m7* *B♭m6* *B♭m6*

**D** *mf*

voice

B♭ Cl.

B. Cl.

Opt. Gtr.

*mf* *Dm* *Gm*

I will ne-ver fly a-gain, I \_\_\_\_\_ will ne-ver fly a-gain,

4

35

voice

B♭ Cl.

B. Cl.

Opt. Gtr.

*Dm* *Cm* *Bm*

I will ne - ver fly a - gain.



37 *f*

voice  
I will ne - ver, Ne - ver, I

B $\flat$  Cl. *f*

B. Cl. *f*  
Dm Gm

Opt. Gtr. *f*

39

voice  
will ve - ver fly a - gain.

B $\flat$  Cl.

B. Cl.

Opt. Gtr.  
Dm Gm $\flat$  Cm Dm A B $\flat$ /E $\flat$

**E**  $\text{♩} = 56$   
Recitation (centered in E $\flat$ )

voice  
*sfz*  
B $\flat$  *Improvise in a distant, exotic mode*

B $\flat$  Cl.

B. Cl. *sfp*

Opt. Gtr.

"Congratulations! You were randomly selected for secondary bag inspection!"  
"by the way, I can't put it back the way you packed your bag, sir, it's too tight"

43

voice

B $\flat$  Cl.

B. Cl.

Opt. Gtr.

45

voice

"I was on crutches, hailing the carts, asking for a wheel-chair but they kept ignoring me..."

Fm/A

B $\flat$  Cl.

B. Cl.

Opt. Gtr.

47

voice

*rit.*

B $\flat$  Cl.

G $\flat$ maj7

B. Cl.

Opt. Gtr.

12/8

**F**  $\text{♩} = 44$  *pp*

voice  
Pas - sen - gers in trou - ble, The new Bat - tle in the great old class strug - gle. Who do you

B♭ Cl. *pp*

B. Cl. *pp*

Opt. Gtr.  $A\flat m$   $G\flat$   $D\flat m$   $A\flat m$

51

voice  
say, will be first saved? When your plane lands rough?

B♭ Cl.

B. Cl.

Opt. Gtr.  $G\flat$   $F\flat$   $D\flat m7$   $E\flat m7$   $F\flat m7$   $G\flat$

53

voice  
But, How can I ex - plain this plight, this grand urge to fight, this cruel

B♭ Cl.

B. Cl.

Opt. Gtr.  $A\flat m$   $G\flat$   $D\flat m$   $E\flat m/G\flat$   $E/G$

55

voice

rhy - thm, the/al - go - ri - thm, To those left be -

B♭ Cl.

B. Cl.

Opt. Gtr.

D♭m A♭m D♭m7 E♭m7

G ♩ = 56

voice

hind? But, How can I ex - plain,

B♭ Cl.

B. Cl.

Opt. Gtr.

*p*

59

voice

to those peo-ple who are hun - gry E - very day and e - very night , with no mo - ney, with no life

B♭ Cl.

B. Cl.

Opt. Gtr.

61

voice

or dreams. What am I to say to the/ex-

B♭ Cl.

B. Cl.

Opt. Gtr.

*mp*

63

voice

plotted, the sick, or those living on the street, famished children their mothers starving too,

B♭ Cl.

B. Cl.

Opt. Gtr.

65

voice

What am I to say?

B♭ Cl.

B. Cl.

Opt. Gtr.

*mf*

67

voice

How a - bout those re - fu - gees? Peo - ple ta - ken by the flood, the un - em - ployed,

B $\flat$  Cl.

*mf*

B. Cl.

*mf*

Opt. Gtr.

69

voice

The old peo - ple left a - lone the war vic - tims left to rot.

B $\flat$  Cl.

B. Cl.

Opt. Gtr.

*f*

71

voice

What am I to say, To those al - ways a - bused, those with no - thing to lose,

B $\flat$  Cl.

*f*

B. Cl.

*f*

Opt. Gtr.

73 *p* *f*

voice Those who/al-rea-dy know that they'll ne-ver be old. What am I to say? \_\_\_\_\_

B♭ Cl. *p* *f*

B. Cl. *f*

Opt. Gtr. *p*

75 *rit.* **H** ♩. = 48 " The airline's baggage staff clearly have no idea where my bag is or has been for the last ten days, I had to buy a whole lot of new clothes"

voice \_\_\_\_\_

B♭ Cl. *pp*

B. Cl. *pp* 4

Opt. Gtr. Cm B♭ A♭ Gm

78 "What kind of vacation is that?" *rit.* *p* 4

voice I will ne-ver fly a-gain.

B♭ Cl.

B. Cl.

Opt. Gtr. Fm E♭ Fm7 Gm7 C7(omit3)